

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 PARIS 23639 071923Z

51

ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 EURE-00 SAJ-01 OMB-01 NIC-01 H-01

PM-03 NSC-07 SP-02 SS-14 RSC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-04 PRS-01 DRC-01 /069 W

----- 028376

P 071811Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0000

INFO AMCONSUL BORDEAUX

AMCONSUL LYON

AMCONSUL NICE

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PARIS 23639

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, FR

SUBJECT: SECOND ROUND OF FRENCH BY-ELECTIONS, OCTOBER 6

REF: (A) PARIS 23156; (B) PARIS 22848

SUMMARY: THE SECOND ROUND BY-ELECTION RESULTS CONFIRM A LEFTWARD TREND IN SIX WIDELY SCATTERED DISTRICTS FORMERLY CONSIDERED SAFE MAJORITY SEATS. OF THE FOUR FORMER POMPIDOU CABINET MEMBERS NOT REELECTED ON THE SEPTEMBER 29 FIRSTROUND, TWO SQUEAKED BY IN THE RUNOFFS, WHILE TWO LOST DECISIVELY TO NON-COMMUNIST LEFT OPPONENTS. END SUMMARY.

1. FORMER MINISTER GUENA (UDR) AND FORMER STATE SECRETARY TORRE (UDR) WON REELECTION TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ON THE OCTOBER 6 SECOND ROUND OF SPECIAL BY-ELECTIONS. IN COMMON WITH EX-MINISTERS MESSMER AND GUICHARD, ELECTED ON THE FIRST ROUND, BOTH GUENA AND

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 PARIS 23639 071923Z

TORRE SAW THEIR MARGINS OF VICTORY DRASTICALLY REDUCED

IN ONCE SECURE UDR AREAS.

2. THE MAJORITY LOSERS WERE FONTANET (CDP), WHO LOST IN SAVOIE TO SOCIALIST CANDIDATE MAURICE BLANC, AND LECAT (UDR - "NEW MAJORITY"), DEFEATED IN COTE-D'OR BY LEFT RADICAL PIERRE CHARLES. WITH FONTANET'S LOSS, THE SAVOIE WILL NOW BE REPRESENTED EXCLUSIVELY BY THREE SOCIALISTS IN THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, WHILE LECAT'S DEFEAT REPRESENTS A MARKED SETBACK IN A PROMISING POLITICAL CAREER.

3. WHILE FONTANET'S AND LECAT'S DEFEATS WERE NOT SURPRISING AFTER THE FIRST ROUND, THE MARGIN OF THEIR DEFEATS WAS UNEXPECTED. FONTANET RECEIVED ONLY 42 PERCENT OF THE VOTE, LECAT 47 PERCENT. MOREOVER, IN THE TWO DISTRICTS WHERE THE LEFT WAS VICTORIOUS, TOTAL VOTER PARTICIPATION WAS HIGHEST. IT IS PROBABLE THAT FARMER DISCONTENT HELPED TIP THE SCALES IN THESE TWO DISTRICTS AND WORKED AGAINST THE EX-CABINET MEMBERS IN THE OTHER FOUR.

4. AS EXPECTED' ABSENTEE RATES DECLINED -- FROM 25-40 PERCENT ON THE FIRST ROUND TO 18-30 PERCENT. THE FIRST ROUND ABSENTEE VOTERS, HOWEVER, INSTEAD OF COMING TO THE AID OF MAJORITY CANDIDATES IN DIFFICULTY, SPLIT MORE OR LESS EVENLY BETWEEN THE FORMER CABINET MEMBERS AND THEIR LEFT OPPORENTS. ONLY GUENA IN DORDOGNE WAS ABLE TO PROFIT FROM THE AREA'S TRADITIONAL ANTI-COMMUNISM; HIS COMMUNIST OPPONENT, YVES PERON, DID NOT MANAGE TO GAIN ALL THE VOTES WHICH WENT TO THE THIRD PLACE LEFT RADICAL CANDIDATE ON SEPTEMBER 29. IN THE OTHER DISTRICTS THE DISCIPLINED COMMUNIST ELECTORS GAVE THEIR VOTES TO THEIR UNITED LEFT PARTNERS; IN THE DORDOGNE, WHERE THE SITUATION DEMANDED RECIPROCITY, THE NON-COMMUNIST LEFT VOTERS FAILED TO COME THROUGH. NEVERTHELESS, PERON INCREASED HIS FIRST ROUND SCORE BY A THOUSAND VOTES AND FIRISHED WITH 48 PERCENT OF THE VOTE.

5. THE REAL WINNER IN THE BY-ELECTIONS HAS BEEN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 PARIS 23639 071923Z

FRANCOIS MITTERRAND. OVERALL RESULTS CONFIRM LAST WEEK'S TREND (REF B) IN FAVOR OF THE NON-COMMUNIST LEFT. ALTHOUGH THE LEFT'S TWC NEW SEATS WILL NOT AFFECT THE BALANC OF FORCES IN THE ASSEMBLY' THE IMPRESSIVE PERFORMANCE OF THE NON-COMMUNIST LEFT, WHICH GAINED THOUSANDS OF VOTES IN SIX WIDELY SCATTERED AREAS OF FRANCE, INDICATES GROWING VOTER DISCONTENT WITH THE MAJORITY -- AS TYPIFIED BY EX-POMPIDOU

CABINET MINISTERS. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN WHETHER
THIS DISCONTENT WILL FOCUS ON GISCARD PERSONALLY IN
THE MONTHS AHEAD.
IRWIN IRWIN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTION RESULTS, NATIONAL ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: elyme
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974PARIS23639
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740284-0124
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741067/aaaacfbcltel
Line Count: 119
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: (A) PARIS 23156; (B) PARIS 22848
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: elyme
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 APR 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <10 MAR 2003 by elyme>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECOND ROUND OF FRENCH BY-ELECTIONS, OCTOBER 6
TAGS: PINT, FR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005